

OPINION 2141 (Case 3293)***Nicrophorus olidus* Matthews, 1888 (Insecta, Coleoptera): given precedence over *Nicrophorus quadricollis* Gistel, 1848**

Abstract. The Commission has given precedence to the widely used name *Nicrophorus olidus* Matthews, 1888 for a species of burying beetle (family SILPHIDAE) over the little used name *Nicrophorus quadricollis* Gistel, 1848 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; SILPHIDAE; NICROPHORINAE; *Nicrophorus olidus*; *Nicrophorus quadricollis*; burying beetles; Nearctic.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the name *olidus* Matthews, 1888, as published in the binomen *Nicrophorus olidus*, is given precedence over the name *quadricollis* Gistel, 1848, as published in the binomen *Nicrophorus quadricollis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *olidus* Matthews, 1888, as published in the binomen *Nicrophorus olidus*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *quadricollis* Gistel, 1848, as published in the binomen *Nicrophorus quadricollis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *quadricollis* Gistel, 1848, as published in the binomen *Nicrophorus quadricollis*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *olidus* Matthews, 1888, as published in the binomen *Nicrophorus olidus*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

History of Case 3293

An application to give precedence to the widely used name *Nicrophorus olidus* Matthews, 1888 for a species of burying beetle (family SILPHIDAE) over the little used name *Nicrophorus quadricollis* Gistel, 1848 was received from D.S. Sikes (*Department of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada*) and S.T. Trumbo (*Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, U.S.A.*) on 20 May 2003. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 61: 95–97 (June 2004). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments on this case were received.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2005 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 61: 96. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2005 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 19: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bock, Brothers, Calder, Fortey, Halliday, Kerzhner, Lamas, Macpherson, Mahnert, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Song, Štys and van Tol.

Negative vote – 1: Bouchet.

No vote was received from Ng.

Voting for, Štys commented that ‘the generally low quality of Gistel’s work is not an argument for rejection of his nominal taxa summarily. The authors (para. 3) clearly state that the description of *Nicrophorus quadricollis* Gistel, 1848 “matches the diagnostic characteristics of . . . *Nicrophorus olidus* Matthews . . .”. Why not establish a neotype for *N. quadricollis* and follow priority? I fail to see any “destabilization” of nomenclature’.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

quadricollis, *Nicrophorus*, Gistel, 1848, *Naturgeschichte des Thierreichs für höhere Schulen*, p. 190.

olidus, *Nicrophorus*, Matthews, 1888, *Biologia Centrali-Americana. Insecta. Coleoptera*, vol. 2, pt. 1. *Fam. Silphidae*, p. 92.